

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1662

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL HATFIELD: CALL ON PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: STATE 41268

1. SADAT DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE FOR YUGOSLAVIA TODAY IN ORDER TO REIVE CODEL HATFIELD. AIRCRAFT CARRYING THE SENATOR FROM NEW DELHI WAS SEVEN HOURS LATE, WHICH REQUIRED THAT I TAKE HIM AND FRANK DIRECTLY ON ARRIVAL TO THE BARRAGES WHERE THE PRESIDENT WAS STAYING. SADAT, WHO HAD OBVIOUSLY HAD ADVANCE BRIEFING FROM GHORBAL, WARMLY WEL-COMED THE SENATOR. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES ROUGHLY THREE-QUARTER HOUR MEETING.

2. SADAT NOTED THAT HE HAS OBSERVED AT CLOSE HAND PAST 26 YEARS OF STRAINED US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE HAD KNOWN SECRETARIES OF STATE FROM DULLES ON DOWN. SECRETARY KISSINGER IS THE FIRST SUCH AMERICAN OFFICIAL WHO ENJOYS HIS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. AS A RESULT OF THE SECRETARY'S AND HIS EFFORTS, A NEW ERA OF US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS IS DEVELOPING. THIS, IN HIS VIEW, COULD BECOME A "GLORIOUS ONE." USG HAS MANY FRIENDS IN ARAB WORLD WHO SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. HE DID NOT ASK THAT USG ALIGN ITSELF WITH EGYPT OR THE ARABS, BUT SOLELY THAT IT PURSUE A POLICY NOT RPT NOT TOTALLY SLANTED TOWARD ISRAEL. PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NO LESS THAN US INTERESTS IN THE AREA, REQUIRE
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THIS. FOR FIRST TIME DURING THE PAST FOUR MONTHS USG

HAS FOLLOWED A "PROPER APPROACH" TO THE COMPLEX MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. IF CONTINUED, HE PREDICTED, THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE ARE GOOD.

3. SADAT CONTINUED THAT HE HAD WANTED TO PRESENT THE SENATOR WITH SOME AMERICAN MANUFACTURED "SHELLS." THESE ALLEGEDLY SHOW A DATE OF MANUFACTURE EITHER JUST BEFORE OR DURING OCTOBER HOSTILITIES. THEY HAD BEEN FOUND BY EGYPTIAN TROOPS. HE WOULD ALSO HAVE LIKED THE SENATOR TO SEE THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY THESE SHELLS IN EGYPTIAN CITIES OF PORT SAID, ISMAILIYA AND SUEZ. THE SENATOR COULD THEN LET THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

4. EGYPT, THE PRESIDENT EXPLAINED, SEEKS TO REOPEN THE SUEZ CANAL AND TO RECONSTRUCT THE CITIES ALONG ITS BANKS. BY DOING SO, A MILLION EGYPTIAN REFUGEES CAN BE RETURNED TO THEIR HOME AREAS. TO ACHIEVE THIS, HOWEVER, EGYPT NEEDS HELP, AMERICAN HELP, INCLUDING DOLLARS. HE HOPED THAT USG WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO EGYPT'S NEEDS. UP TO NOW, EGYPT HAS HAD TO RELY ON SOVIET AID, BUT THIS IS NOT NOW FORTHCOMING. BECAUSE OF LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS, EGYPT WILL HAVE TO ASK SOVIETS TO PERMIT DELAYING SCHEDULED DEBT REPAYMENTS DUE APRIL. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW SOVIETS WILL RESPOND.

5. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, THE SENATOR REFERRED TO HIS OWN RECORD AND SPOKE OF IMPORTANCE OF BROADENING AMERICAN PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARAB POSITION. THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. GHORBAL IS AN EXCELLENT EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THIS PURPOSE. NOTING HE WAS BUT ONE OF A HUNDRED SENATORS, HE ASSURED SADAT HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO ENCOURAGE NEW AND BURGEONING US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP.
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